

## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2020

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**Awards and honours**

<b>Recipient Name</b>	<b>Award Name</b>	<b>Extra Information</b>
Kritika Pandey	Regional award for Asia in 2020 Commonwealth Short Story Prize	The 29-year-old writer won for her story The Great Indian Tee and Snakes, which is about two young people trying to navigate the idea of love in an era of hatred and prejudice. The story about a Hindu girl falling in love with a Muslim man had made it to the shortlist for the Asian region.
Quarraisha Abdool Karim	Christophe Mérieux Prize for 2020	The award is chosen by the Institut de France, based on proposals from the foundation, and comes with nearly R10 million to support further research.
Kiran Mazumdar Shaw	World Entrepreneur of the year 2020	The award is to recognize her contribution to improving universal access to affordable life-saving medicine and thus transforming the world.
Javed Akhtar	Richard Dawkins Award 2020	Akhtar is the only Indian ever to win this award. Richard Dawkins Award, named after British evolutionary biologist, is presented annually to individuals who have significantly furthered the cause of reason and science.
Renjith Kumar	NASA Distinguished Public Service Medal	Indian Aerospace entrepreneur, Renjith Kumar has been honoured with “NASA Distinguished Service Medal” for his administration to NASA through executive leadership, engineering contribution, technical excellence and consumer loyalty.
Dr. Rattan Lal	2020 World Food Prize	The award recognized his contribution to increasing the global food supply by helping small farmers improve the health of the soil. The award also highlights the importance of managing & restoring soil health.
Shobha Sekhar	Medal of the Order of Australia	Indian Musician & founder of Kalakruthi music organisation in Australia, Shobha Sekhar will be conferred the “Medal of the Order of Australia”.

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Deccan Development Society (DDS)	Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's Biodiversity Award	The Deccan Development Society (DDS), a non-government organisation based in Hyderabad, Telangana, has won the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation's Biodiversity Award.
Amartya Sen	Peace Prize of the German Book Trade	Professor Amartya Sen, 2020 winner of the Peace Prize of the German Book Trade. The board of the German book trade announced it had awarded its prestigious peace prize to Indian economist and philosopher Amartya Sen.
K Ram Mohan Naidu	Sansad Ratna Award	Ram Mohan Naidu has been nominated for the 'Jury Committee Special Award' for his overall qualitative performance and individual efforts.

## Appointments

Name	Designation	Extra Information
Pradip Kumar Tripathi	Secretary - Ministry of Steel	Shri Pradip Kumar Tripathi has assumed charge as Secretary, Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India on 1 June 2020.
Arun Singhal	Food Safety Regulator Chief	Mr Singhal, a 1987-batch IAS officer of Uttar Pradesh cadre, is at present Special Secretary in the Department of Health and Family Welfare.
Mohandas Pai	IBBI advisory committee	The 12-member panel would advise and provide professional support on regulation and development of the service providers dealt with by the IBBI, according to an order.
Manoj Pande	Commander-in-Chief of Andaman and Nicobar Command	Lieutenant General Manoj Pande will take over as the 15th Commander-in-Chief of the Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN).
RK Chaturvedi	Secretary, Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals	With this, Chaturvedi has replaced P Raghavendra Rao who superannuated on May 31.
SN Rajeshwari	CMD of Oriental Insurance	She will be the successor of AV Girija Kumar, 60 years old, who retires on May 2020.
Abhishek Rajan	Paytm Mall - COO	Paytm Mall also plans to hire over 300 people for product and technology roles. Former COO Srinivas Mothey has been elevated to Senior VP Merchants Solutions at Paytm.
VN Datt	Chairman and MD of National Fertilizers Limited	Datt is associated with Company as Director (Marketing) since October 2018.
Gaitri Kumar	India's next High Commissioner to UK	Kumar, a 1986-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, succeeds Ruchi Ghanashyam. At present, Kumar is serving as Indian Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg, and the European Union.
Krishnendu Majumdar	BAFTA Chair	The British Academy has named Krishnendu Majumdar as its new chair, with the

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		award-winning TV producer becoming the first person of color to be appointed to the role in BAFTA's 73-year history and its youngest chair in 35 years.
Uday Kotak	President of the Confederation of Indian Industry	He will replace Vikram Kirloskar, who is the chairman and managing director (MD) of Kirloskar Systems Ltd and vice-chairman of Toyota Kirloskar Motor.
Virendra Nath Datt	Chairman and managing director (CMD) – NFL	State-owned fertiliser firm NFL said Virendra Nath Datt has been given additional charge as chairman and managing director (CMD) of the company. Datt has been director (marketing) of the firm since October 2018.
Patrick Pichette	Twitter – Chairman	Twitter Inc appointed Patrick Pichette, a former chief financial officer at Google, as the social network's board chairman, marking the first time in Twitter's history that an outsider will preside over the group.
Raveesh Kumar	India's Next Ambassador To Finland	Mr Kumar, a 1995-batch Indian Foreign Service officer, served as the spokesperson of the MEA from July 2017 to April 2020 during which he deftly articulated India's position on a number of sensitive issues including last year's Balakot air strike.
Rajeev Topno	Senior advisor to the Executive Director (ED) - World Bank	Besides him, Brajendra Navnit who served in the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has been appointed as Ambassador and Permanent Representative of India to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Geneva, Switzerland.
Manushi Chhillar	Adidas brand ambassador	Miss World 2017 winner Manushi Chhillar has joined the league of star cricketer Rohit Sharma, sprint sensation Hima Das and Bollywood actor Ranveer Singh as brand ambassador of the Indian arm of German sports brand Adidas.

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Rajiv Singh	DLF - chairman	Kushal Pal Singh, the face of India's largest listed real estate firm DLF, stepped down from the chairmanship of the company at the age of 90. He will be replaced by son Rajiv Singh, currently serving as vice chairman, the firm announced.
Rahul Shrivastava	Ambassador of India to Romania	Rahul Shrivastava, a senior diplomat has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to Romania. Mr Shrivastava, a 1999 batch IFS officer is presently a joint secretary in the ministry.
AM Naik	L&T - Non-Executive Chairman	Naik was appointed Group Executive Chairman of L&T in 2012 but he stepped down from executive responsibilities in 2017.
Ramesh S	Board of Karnataka Bank - Chief Risk Officer	The Board of Karnataka Bank at its meeting held on 06 June 2020 has designated Ramesh S, General Manager, In-charge of Risk Management Department.
Sharad Mathur	Managing Director & CEO - Universal Sompo General Insurance Company Limited	Sharad is a seasoned business leader and brings over 23 years of extensive experience and a strong track record of building scale and profitable general insurance businesses.
Charles Brown	US Air Force chief	He is the first African American to serve as a service chief in the US military. Brown most recently served as the commander of US Pacific Air Forces. The vote came amid protests over George Floyd's death.
V Satya Venkata Rao	Managing Director SIDBI	Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) said V Satya Venkata Rao has taken charge as its new Deputy Managing Director.
Shri Shambhu S. Kumaran	Ambassador of India to the Republic of Philippines	Shri Shambhu S. Kumaran, presently Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Morocco, has been appointed as the next Ambassador of India to the Republic of Philippines.
Prabhakar Raghavan	Google's New Head of Search	A focus of his research includes co-authoring research on link analysis as far back as 2000 as well as the Yahoo

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		Research on trust and distrust in links.
J Radhakrishnan	Tamil Nadu Health Secretary	He was praised by the international media during the 2004 tsunami for his interventions as the then district collector of Nagapattinam.
Biswajit Dasgupta	Chief of Staff of ENC	Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta replaced Vice Admiral SN Ghormade, the outgoing Chief of Staff, has proceeded on transfer as Controller Personnel Services at Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence (Navy), New Delhi.
Devendra Kumar Singh	Directors of Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)	He will be succeeding Ram Mohan Mishra, with immediate effect and until further orders.
Javed Iqbal Wani	J&K High Court judge	J&K and Ladakh Chief Justice Gita Mittal administered the oath of office to Javed Iqbal Wani, the 13th judge of the combined High Court.
Imtaiyazur Rahman	UTI Asset Management Mutual fund company – CEO	UTI AMC, which plans to launch IPO soon, said the company board has appointed Imtaiyazur Rahman as the Chief Executive Officer of the asset management company.
Maya Nair	Director & Chief Information Security Officer at CRISIL Limited	She was associated with Reliance Capital Limited as Group Chief Information Security Officer, Idea Cellular as Head – Information Security and Reliance Jio as Head of Security Operations in past.
Shri Santosh Jha	Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Belgium	He will also be accredited as Ambassador of India to the European Union. He is expected to take up the assignment shortly.
Kathy Lueders	Female head of NASA's Human Space Flight Program	Kathy Lueders has become the new Associate Administrator of HEO- Human Exploration and Operations Mission Directorate.
Ndayishimiye	Burundi – President	Burundi's newly-elected president Evariste Ndayishimiye will be sworn, the foreign ministry announced, in a ceremony fast-tracked by the sudden death of

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		the incumbent, Pierre Nkurunziza.
Volkan Bozkir	President of 75th UN General Assembly	Volkan Bozkir received 178 votes in his favour, as 11 nations abstained from voting. The voting was conducted through secret ballot.
Kaizad Bharucha	Executive Director - HDFC Bank	The Reserve Bank of India has approved the re-appointment of Kaizad Bharucha as Executive Director of HDFC Bank for a period of three years with effect from June 13, 2020, the private sector lender said in a regulatory filing.
Urjit Patel	National Institute of Public Finance and Policy (NIPFP) – Chairman	Patel will replace Vijay Kelkar, who assumed office on November 1, 2014 “National Institute of Public Finance and Policy is privileged to have Dr. Urjit Patel, former Reserve Bank Governor.
Sourav Ganguly and Sunil Chhetri	JSW Cement – Brand Ambassador	The company is also rolling out its new multi-media marketing campaign ‘Leader’s Choice’ featuring both these sports icons on June 20th across West Bengal, Bihar and Odisha.
Pralay Mondal	Catholic Syrian Bank – President	The board of CSB Bank has approved the appointment of Pralay Mondal as the president – retail, SME, operations and IT, the private sector lender said in a statement.
Vikram Pawah	BMW Group – President	In addition to serving as the BMW Group India’s new President, Pawah will also retain his role as the Chief Executive Officer of BMW Group Australia as well as New Zealand.
Jaideep Nandi	MD of Bajaj Consumer Care	Nandi is currently the company’s Chief Executive Officer, and will take over as the managing director effective 1 July. He takes over from Sumit Malhotra, who will step down as the managing director with effect from 30 June, 2020.
Anubhav Sharma	Paytm Payments Bank – Head	Paytm Payments Bank has roped in Anubhav Sharma who was heading Unified Payments Interface and Immediate



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		Payment Service at the National Payments Corporations of India
Gaurav Maheshwari	Standard Chartered India- Chief Financial Officer (CFO)	Maheshwari brings with him over 23 years of experience gained predominantly across the financial and corporate sector.
Shri. T. Rabi Sankar	IFTAS – Chairman	IFTAS, a wholly owned subsidiary of Reserve Bank of India announces the appointments of Shri. T Rabi Sankar as the Chairman and Dr. N Rajendran as the CEO of the organization effective May 15, 2020 and May 27, 2020 respectively.
Nikhil Rathi	London Stock Exchange – CEO	The UK head of the London Stock Exchange, Nikhil Rathi, has appointed chief executive of the Financial Conduct Authority, making him the first BAME leader of the UK's City regulator.
Colin Shah	Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC) – Chairman	Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), under the aegis of the Commerce Ministry, announced the appointment of Colin Shah as Chairman of the apex trade body for the sector.
Laurent Boquillet	Head of Global Development	World Athletics on June 22 announced that Laurent Boquillet has appointed as the Head of Global Development. World Athletics mentioned that the global search to fill out the new position conducted in January 2020.
Rajesh Shukla	Gujarat Lokayukta	Retired Gujarat High Court Judge Justice Rajesh Shukla was sworn-in as the fifth Lokayukta of the state by Governor Acharya Devvrat.
Wasim Jaffer	head coach of Uttarakhand cricket team	Former India opener and domestic stalwart Wasim Jaffer has been appointed head coach of the Uttarakhand cricket team for the upcoming domestic season.
Clare Connor	Marylebone Cricket Club – President	Former England captain Clare Connor is set to become the first-ever female president of

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		the Marylebone Cricket Club in its 233-year history.
Vini Mahajan	Chief Secretary of Punjab	1987 Indian Administrative Service (IAS) batch officer Vini Mahajan became the Chief Secretary of Punjab on 26th June 2020.
Sanjay Mahajan	Carrier Midea India – MD	Air-conditioners company Carrier Midea India Pvt. Ltd, a joint venture between Carrier and Midea, announced the appointment of Sanjay Mahajan as the new Managing Director.
Lazarus Chakwera	President of Malawi	Lazarus Chakwera was elected as the new President of Malawi after winning 2,604,043 votes, which is 59.34 percent of the total valid votes.
K.K.Venugopal	Attorney General for India	On 30th June 2017, K.K. Venugopal succeeded Mukul Rohatgi to become the 15th Attorney General of India.
Micheal Martin	Ireland – Prime Minister	Micheal Martin was elected as Ireland’s new prime minister, after his centre-right Fianna Fail party sealed a historic coalition deal with long-time rivals Fine Gael as well as the Green Party.

### Banking & Finance

#### **Global Economic Prospects Report, 2020 by World Bank**

The World Bank recently launched the Global Economic Prospects Report, 2020. The report highlighted the impact of COVID-19 on countries.

The report says that the Emerging Market and the Developing Economies are highly vulnerable. They face health crisis, external shocks, restrictions, tourism, falling trade, capital outflows and commodity prices. These countries according to the report are expected to have 3% to 8% output loss.

#### **Sebi approves regulatory sandbox framework for stock market ecosystem**

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) approved the regulatory sandbox framework for the stock market ecosystem.

The term is used for live testing new financial technology (fintech) solutions on customers, without having to be fully licensed, but under strict regulatory supervision.

#### **Bank of Baroda, Union Bank of India reduce lending rates across all tenors**

State-run lenders Bank of Baroda (BoB) and Union Bank of India (UBI) announced cut in their marginal cost of funds-based lending rates (MCLR) across all tenors.

While the BoB's MCLR cut of 15 basis points (bps) is effective from June 12, the 10 bps revision in UBI's rates would come into force on June 11.

#### **ICICI Bank launches 'Insta Flexicash' paperless overdraft facility for salary accounts**

Private lender ICICI Bank has unveiled a paperless facility that will enable its salary account customers to get approvals for overdraft (OD) instantaneously.

Titled as 'Insta Flexicash', the end-to-end fully digital service can be used on the lender's internet banking platform. The product is being introduced at a time when consumption-linked retail credit growth has decreased. According to the latest data by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), retail loans increased just by 12% year-on-year (y-o-y) in April against 15.7% a year ago.

#### **Yes Bank launches mobile payment app 'Yuva Pay'**

Yes Bank launched its digital wallet solution 'Yuva Pay' in partnership with UDMA Technologies to enable contactless payments for its customers.

The digital wallet issued under minimum KYC regulations to Yes Bank will offer bill payments via Bharat Bill Pay and provide Unified Payments Interface (UPI) facility to customers.

### **Indian Government signs agreement for Two Projects in Tamil Nadu with World Bank Group**

An agreement was signed between the World Bank Group and the Government of India for providing urban poor in the state of Tamil Nadu access to affordable housing. The agreement signed has two projects under Tamil Nadu Housing Sector Strengthening Program and Tamil Nadu Housing and Habittat Development Project.

The loans for both the project are from the lending arm of the World Bank Group the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD). The maturity of both the loans including 3.5 years grace period is 20 years.

### **Yes Bank launches co-branded cashless card with Affordplan for heathcare needs**

Yes Babin partnership with Affordplan, a Delhi-based fintech company specializing in healthcare, announced the launch of ‘Swasth Card’, a co-branded healthcare card, under Swasth program in its endeavour to enable families plan and manage their finances for their healthcare needs.

In addition, YES BANK’s wallet has also been integrated on Affordplan Swasth to enable wallet QR scan for making payments to merchant partners empanelled on the Affordplan Swasth app.

### **HDFC Ergo launches country’s first drone cover**

In an industry-first initiative, the third largest private sector general insurer HDFC Ergo tied up with tech firm Tropogo to offer commercial drone owners and operators third-party liability cover for property damages and physical injuries from the flying machines. This policy will be offered on-demand to customers on a ‘pay as you fly’ concept, the insurer said in a statement.

Third-party insurance liability claim is mandatory for drone operations in the country.

### **World Bank approves dollar 1.05 billion to Bangladesh for jobs and economic recovery**

The World Bank has approved dollar 1.05 billion for three projects in Bangladesh to create quality jobs and accelerate economic recovery in the wake of the Corona pandemic. The Press release issued by the World Bank quoted the Country Director for Bhutan and Bangladesh Mercy Tembon that these projects will help the economy in bouncing back by creating more and better jobs and promoting direct private investment in specialized economic zones.

### **Exim Bank extends USD 20.1 mn credit line to Nicaragua govt**

Export-Import Bank of India (Exim Bank) said it has extended a line of credit (LOC) of USD 20.10 million to the government of Nicaragua for reconstruction of Aldo Chavarria Hospital.

Projects covered under the LOCs include supply of equipment for building two substations, construction of transmission lines, building new substation, expansion of the existing substations and reconstruction of a hospital.

### **World Bank Group Approves USD 500 Million under STARS Program**

The World Bank Group has announced that a loan of USD 500 million (approx Rs 3700 crore) was approved by its Board of Executives on 24th June 2020 for improving the quality and governance of school education system in India.

The loan approved will benefit 10 million teachers and 250 million school students across 1.5 million schools in 6 states of India. The loan was approved as a part of the STARS Program. The 6 Indian States are Rajasthan, Odisha, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, and Maharashtra.

### **Airtel Payments Bank launches Suraksha Salary Account for MSMEs**

In a statement, Airtel Payments Bank said that through these innovative accounts, MSMEs and other organisations will be able to make cashless payments and provide a financial security blanket to their employees.

‘Suraksha’ salary account offers a wide range of benefits including hospital cash insurance and personal accidental insurance cover given the low penetration of insurance in India, it said.

### **IBBI reconstitutes advisory panel on corporate insolvency resolution process**

The insolvency regulator IBBI has reconstituted the Advisory Committee on Corporate Insolvency Resolution and Liquidation process. This panel, which would be chaired by Uday Kotak, Executive Vice Chairman and Managing Director, Kotak Mahindra Bank, comprises of 13 members besides the Chairman.

### **SBI sanctions Rs 20,000 cr loans to MSMEs under credit guarantee scheme**

State Bank of India (SBI) has sanctioned loans worth Rs 20,000 crore to over 400,000 micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) accounts under the Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), according to its chairman Rajnish Kumar.

The scheme, funded by the Centre, provides guarantee for 20 per cent additional credit to the bank’s existing eligible borrowers from the MSME segment. It is part of the Rs 20 trillion package crafted to revive the economy disrupted by the lockdown imposed to contain the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic.

### **PhonePe launches UPI handle in partnership with ICICI Bank**

Digital payments major PhonePe has officially launched ‘@ibl’ handle in partnership with ICICI Bank as part of an effort to diversify into a multi-bank partnership model. The Flipkart-backed payments player had started with Yes Bank and was offering the ‘@ybl’ handle.

### **Exim Bank extends \$215 million line of credit to Malawi**

India based finance lender Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) announced to extend \$215.68 million Line of Credit (LOC) to the Malawi government.

Exim Bank in its issued statement said, “The bank has extended a line of credit (LOC) worth of \$215.68 million to the Malawi government for drinking water supply schemes and other development projects.”

### **[AIIB approves \\$750 million dollar loan to India to fight COVID-19](#)**

The Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) has approved the loan of \$750 million dollars (about Rs. 5,688 crore) to India. The loan has been sanctioned to assist the Indian government to strengthen its response to the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on millions of people.

### Indian Affairs

#### **PM Modi launches “My Life My Yoga”**

PM Modi launched “My Life My Yoga”, a video blogging contest. The contest is to be conducted as a joint effort of Ministry of AYUSH and ICMR (Indian Council of Cultural Research). The contest is being launched to inspire people to participate in the sixth International Day of Yoga (IDY) that is to be celebrated in 21st June, 2020. Any participant from the world can take part in the contest.

#### **Mudra Shishu loan announced for small businesses**

The centre has announced the launch of ‘Mudra Shishu loan’ to benefit small businesses and cottage industries. Under the scheme, one lakh beneficiaries can avail an interest benefit of 2 percent for a year.

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman had announced the ‘Mudra Shishu loan’ while announcing the second tranche of the centre’s 20 lakh crore package to revive the Indian economy amid COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **National Employment Policy**

The Ministry of Labour is to fast track the National Employment Policy. The main idea of framing the National Employment Policy is to lay out a roadmap that will provide incentives for employment generation.

The policy will aim at absorbing additional 5 million workforce every year. Also, the policy will focus on formalizing 500 million workforce in the country. It will also ensure social security and job security for them.

#### **PM to launch ₹50,000 cr Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan for migrants in 116 districts: FM**

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman said PM Narendra Modi will launch a ₹50,000-crore ‘Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan’ with 25 schemes for migrant workers in 116 districts on June 20. “We’ll reach saturation levels for schemes within 125 days,” Sitharaman added. “We’ve found migrant workers returned in large numbers to 116 districts across Bihar, Jharkhand, UP, MP, Odisha and Rajasthan,” she added.

#### **Sports Ministry to establish Khelo India Centres of Excellence**

Following up in its efforts to push for greater grassroots development of sports and infrastructure, the Sports Ministry has now decided to set up Khelo India State Centres of Excellence (KISCE) under Khelo India.

While KISCE would be identified in every state, the first phase of the scheme will see eight state-owned facilities being upgraded. The eight have been selected on the basis of facilities available in priority sports, infrastructure and past champions.

### **NITI Aayog to launch ‘Decarbonising Transport in India’ project on June 24**

NITI Aayog will be launching ‘Decarbonising Transport in India’ project on June 24, 2020 in collaboration with the International Transport Forum. The main aim of the project will be to develop a pathway towards a low-carbon transport system for India.

The Decarbonising Transport in India project will be launched by NITI Aayog CEO Amitabh Kant and ITF Secretary-General Young Tae Kim during an online public launch event. The event will see participation from several senior officials of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways and ITF.

### **Healthcare & Hygiene EXPO 2020- India’s first-ever Largest Virtual Exhibition**

Organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), the five-day Virtual Healthcare & Hygiene Expo was e-inaugurated on 22nd June 2020 by Mansukh Mandaviya (Union Minister of State for Chemicals & Fertilizers). As Digital India is making a way forward, the exhibition is the first-ever virtual exhibition in India. The virtual event will be live daily from 22nd to 26th June.

### **Union HRD Minister launched YUKTI 2.0 platform for Higher Education Institutes in New Delhi**

Union Minister of Human Resource Development Ramesh Pokhriyal ‘Nishank’ launched an initiative ‘YUKTI 2.0’ on 23 June 2020 in New Delhi. The initiative aims to help systematically assimilate technologies having commercial potential and information related to incubated startups in higher education institutions.

#### **YUKTI :**

- YUKTI stands for Young India combating COVID with Knowledge, Technology & Innovation
- YUKTI 2.0 is the logical extension of the earlier version of ‘YUKTI’.
- The initiative aims to identify ideas relevant to the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Rs. 2,000 crore allocated by PM CARES Fund for supply of 50,000 ventilators to govt run COVID hospitals**

The PM-CARES Fund Trust has allocated Rs. 2,000 crore for supply of 50,000 ‘Made-in-India’ ventilators to government run COVID hospitals in all States and Union Territories. In addition, Rs. 1,000 crore have been allocated for the welfare of migrant labourers.

AIR correspondent reports, out of the 50,000 ventilators, 30,000 ventilators are being manufactured by Bharat Electronics Limited.

### **KVIC launched Sandalwood and Bamboo plantation to stir up monetization of its assets**

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched Sandalwood and Bamboo plantation to spur monetization of its assets. The first of its kind initiative began with a drive with plantation of 500 saplings each of sandalwood and bamboo at its Nashik training center



spread over 262 acres of land. The plantation ceremony was launched through video-conference by KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena.

### **Cleared of Doping Charges, K. Sanjita Chanu to receive Arjuna Award**

Secretary of Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLFF) has informed on 25th June 2020 that K. Sanjita Chanu will receive the Arjuna Award for 2018. The two time Commonwealth Games Gold medalist was cleared of doping charges earlier this month by the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF). The Secretary of IWF has also informed that the Sports Ministry has confirmed that K. Sanjita Chanu will be awarded Arjuna Award for 2018.

### **‘At One Click’ Initiative launched by Gujarat Government for MSMEs & Other Bigger Industries**

For 12,247 Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and bigger industrial units (including the textile industry) in the state, the Gujarat Government on 26th June 2020 has launched an online cash aid initiative. The initiative is named as ‘At One Click’. The initiative was launched by the Chief Minister of Gujarat Vijay Rupani.

### **Delhi govt starts Sero Survey of 20,000 people**

The Serological Survey in Delhi starts from June 27, 2020. The survey will be conducted on as many as 20,000 households in Delhi on a random basis. It will also include individuals below 18 years of age.

### **Jitendra Singh inaugurates Devika and Puneja Bridges in J&K**

Union Minister Jitendra Singh has inaugurated two bridges Devika and Puneja at Udhampur and Doda districts respectively in Jammu and Kashmir. The Bridge on River Devika in Udhampur has been completed by Border Roads Organisation within fifteen months time. The Puneja Bridge was also constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in 36 months.

### **MHA reconstituted a new committee**

Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has reconstituted a new committee for the welfare of the freedom fighters. This committee chaired by the minister of state for home affairs G Kishan Reddy and 9 other “eminent freedom fighters” from across the country.

The ministry features a separate division to serve freedom fighters who are alive and their families. It disburses pension to about 30,000 freedom fighters and their families.

### **State-of-the-art Flood Warning System launched in Mumbai**

iFLOWS- Mumbai, a state-of-the-art Integrated Flood Warning System for Mumbai was launched jointly by Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Uddhav Thackeray, and Union Earth Sciences Minister Dr. Harsh Vardhan on 12 June through video conference.

### **iFLOWS:**

◆ The system will help make Mumbai become more resilient as it provides early warning for flooding, especially during high rainfall events and cyclones. Using this, the estimation of the flood inundation can be done possibly 3 days in advance, along with 3 hours – 6 hours Nowcast (immediate weather updates).

### **Cabinet approves declaration of Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh as an International Airport**

Union Cabinet chaired by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the declaration of Kushinagar Airport in Uttar Pradesh as an International Airport.

#### **Kushinagar Airport:**

- Kushinagar Airport is located in the vicinity of several Buddhist Cultural Sites like Sravasti, Kapilvastu, Lumbini.
- The declaration of Kushinagar Airport as an International Airport will offer improved connectivity, a wider choice of competitive costs to the air-travellers.

### **Mobile Application ‘eBloodServices’ launched by Union Health Minister**

As the COVID-19 pandemic has restricted activities and movement of people across the globe, one challenge that has emerged for all the States and as well as Central Government of India is in ensuring safe blood for the citizens who require regular blood donation for blood or bleeding disorders such as hemophilia, etc.

### **NS Tomar launches web portal of Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan**

Minister for Rural Development Narendra Singh Tomar launched the web portal of the Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan through video conferencing from New Delhi. The Garib Kalyan Rojgar Abhiyaan is the massive employment generation-cum-rural infrastructure creation programme of Government of India which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

### **NITI Aayog launches behaviour change campaign**

NITI Aayog on June 25 launched behaviour change campaign named ‘Navigating the New Normal’, along with its website. The campaign will help people in following the norms in containing the spread of COVID-19.

The behaviour change campaign was developed under the guidance of Empowered Group 6 which was chaired by NITI Aayog CEO, Amitabh Kant. The campaign focuses on COVID-safe behaviour, especially the habit of wearing a mask during the Unlock phase of the pandemic.

### **Technology Platform called CHAMPIONS launched by PM Modi**

The Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched technology platform called CHAMPIONS. CHAMPIONS Stand for Creation and Harmonious Application of Modern Processes for Increasing the Output and National Strength.

The portal aims to make smaller units big by supporting them, encouraging, solving their grievances, helping and handholding. It will act as one-stop shop solution of all entities of the MSME sector.

### **To Change India's Name to Bharat**

The Supreme Court of India recently ordered to change a plea that requested to change India's name into Bharat into a representation. The apex court also ordered to forward it to the Union Government, especially the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The petition that was submitted to the court seeks to amend Article 1 of the Constitution. The petition demands to struck off 'India' from the Article.

### **WCD Ministry sets up task force under Jaya Jaitly to examine maternal mortality rate, women's health among others**

The Union Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD) has constituted a task force to examine matters related to the age of motherhood, imperatives of lowering Maternal Mortality Rate and improvement of nutritional levels.

The 10 member task force will be headed by Jaya Jaitly and is tasked to submit the report by 31st July 2020. The task force will be provided secretarial assistance by the Niti Aayog.

### **GoI launches PM SVANidhi scheme**

Government of India launched the Pradhan Mantri SVANidhi Scheme for street vendors. The Union cabinet has cleared the credit amount for the scheme as well. Under the scheme, Rs 10,000 of credit is to be provided to street vendors. The street vendors shall return the amount as monthly installments within a year.

### **Shahakar Mitra Scheme launched**

The Union Agriculture Minister shri Narendra Singh Tomar launched Shahakar Mitra scheme. The scheme has been launched to assist the cooperative institutions to access innovative ideas of young professionals. In return the young interns will gain confidence to become self-reliant in the field.

### **Dr. Harsh Vardhan launched DBTAMTZ Mobile Diagnostic Unit for COVID Testing I-Lab**

Union Minister for Science & Technology Dr. Harsh Vardhan inaugurated and flagged off India's first Infectious disease diagnostic lab (I-Lab) for COVID-19 testing in rural and inaccessible areas of India.

The infectious disease diagnostic laboratory is a mobile testing facility that was dedicated to providing COVID-19 testing access to rural India.

### **KVIC taps with Indian Palm Industry to boost employment opportunities**

The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched a unique project at Dahanu in Palghar district of Maharashtra, a state with more than 50 lakh palm trees. Under the project, Neera and Palmgur will be produced in India. Neera and Palmgur have huge potential to create employment in the country.

### **Harsh Vardhan launches India's first mobile laboratory for Covid-19 testing**

Union minister Harsh Vardhan launched a mobile laboratory for coronavirus testing which can be deployed in rural areas and help in promoting last-mile testing. The mobile lab, also called I-Lab or Infectious Diseases Diagnostics Lab, can run 50 RT-PCR and about 200 ELISA tests in a day.

### **Culture Ministry to celebrate Sankalp Parva from June 28-July 12**

Union Minister of State for Culture and Tourism (I/C) Prahlad Singh Patel announced on June 27, 2020 that the Ministry has decided to celebrate "Sankalp Parva" from June 28 to July 12, 2020 and plant trees as desired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

PM Narendra Modi has called for planting of at least five trees either in Office campus or wherever it is possible, to ensure a clean and healthy environment of the country.

### **Cabinet approved MoU between India and Bhutan on Cooperation in the areas of Environment**

The Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between India and Bhutan. The agreement was signed to improve cooperation in the areas of the Environment.

### **India's first Online Waste Exchange launched**

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy launched the first online waste exchange programme. The programme was launched for safe disposal of toxic wastes and promote recycling and reuse of toxic wastes.

### **Union Minister Launches "COVID BEEP" App For Coronavirus Patients**

Awareness, and not anxiety, is the key to fighting the coronavirus pandemic, Union Minister Jitendra Singh at the launch of 'COVID BEEP', the country's first indigenous wireless physiological parameters monitoring system for the affected patients.

### **First virtual Trade Fair of India**

The Export Promotion Council for Handicrafts hosted a four day virtual fair for around 200 Indian Exporters. The exporters were mainly from the industries of fashion jewelry and accessories. The spray can be used by common man, health care workers. Also, the spray can be used on a large-scale use as well.

### **IM Vijayan recommended for Padma Shri by AIFF**

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has recommended IM Vijayan for India's fourth-highest civilian award, Padma Shri to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. IM Vijayan was previously awarded the Arjuna Award by the Government of India back in 2003. He has won the AIFF Player of the Year awards in 1993, 1997, and 1999.

### **Pan-India Real-Time Market in electricity launched**

Union Minister of State (IC) Power and New & Renewable Energy & Minister of State (Skill Development and Entrepreneurship) RK Singh launched pan-India Real-Time Market in electricity through video conference in New Delhi on 3 June 2020. The real-time has placed the Indian electricity market amongst a league of few electricity markets in the world.

### **GoI: 10 Sectors identified to cut imports**

The Department of Promotion for Industry and Internal Trade identified 10 sectors where in the imports are to be cut. This includes textiles, jewelry, mobile, gems, pharmaceuticals, garments, electronics, machinery, etc.

The GoI has recently changed the set targets in order to become self-reliant in footwear, furniture and air conditioner. In parallel, the Government has also laid groundwork to become self-reliant in 10 other sectors.

### **KVIC launched Sandalwood and Bamboo plantation to stir up monetization of its assets**

Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) launched Sandalwood and Bamboo plantation to spur monetization of its assets. The first of its kind initiative began with a drive with plantation of 500 saplings each of sandalwood and bamboo at its Nashik training center spread over 262 acres of land. The plantation ceremony was launched through video-conference by KVIC Chairman Vinai Kumar Saxena.

### **SWADES Initiative: Skill Mapping programme for Indians returning from Abroad**

The Government of India is to conduct SWADES initiative to map the skills of Indians returning from abroad. SWADES is Skilled Workers Arrival Database for Employment Support. The SWADES initiative has been begun under Vande Bharat Mission. The initiative aims to generate database of Indians returning from abroad based on their skill sets and experience. The database will then be used to fulfil need of foreign companies and Indian companies.

### **Amery Ice Shelf: Increase by 24% by 2021**

The National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research has predicted that the Amery Ice Shelf is to expand 24% by 2021. The Ice Shelf would expand another 24% by 2026. The NCPOR observations is based on 16 year-long satellite observations. This covered 60,000 sq km of the Amery Ice Shelf.

### **TULIP internship programme**

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and the Ministry of HRD (Human Resource Development) launched an internship learning programme called “TULIP”. The programme has been launched for fresh engineering graduates. Under the programme, they will get opportunities to work with 4,400 urban local bodies and 100 smart cities in India.

### **Power Ministry launched iCommit initiative**

Union Minister of Power R. K. Singh launched the #iCommit initiative for building an energy resilient future on 5 June 2020. A campaign was also launched to encourage all stakeholders and individuals to continue moving towards energy efficiency.

### **EESL, USAID launched Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings**

State-run Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has partnered with US Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Market Integration and Transformation Program for Energy Efficiency (MAITREE) program and launched ‘Healthy and Energy Efficient Buildings’ initiative. The initiative is a part of the US-India bilateral Partnership between the Power Ministry of India and USAID.

### **CM Yogi inaugurates ‘Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana’ in Lucknow**

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath inaugurated ‘Bal Shramik Vidya Yojana’ via video conferencing on June 12. It aims at educating orphans and children of workers or those working as labourers. The scheme was launched in the presence of UP Labour Minister Swami Prasad Maurya. June 12 is observed as ‘World Day Against Child Labour’.

### **“Arogya Path”: Portal to provide health care supply updates launched**

The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research National Health Supply Chain portal called “Arogya Path” was launched to provide real-time availability of health care supplies.

The Arogya path will serve suppliers, manufacturers and customers. It will act as an integrated platform to provide information about key health care goods that help customers to tackle following issues

- **Dependence on limited suppliers**
- **Time-consuming Processes to identify quality products**
- **Limited access to suppliers that supply standardized products**
- **Lack of awareness about the current and latest launches**

### **M B Lal Committee**

The recent massive fire at the Baghjan Oil field, Assam had caused serious environmental damages and led to migration of 1000s of people in the region. More than 1,610 families are now lodged in 4 relief camps. The Government of India has taken several measures to address the issues of such oil field fires. In 2009, GoI constituted the M B Lal Committee following the fire accident at the IOCL terminal in Jaipur.

### **₹14,690 crore disbursed under emergency credit line guarantee scheme as of June 11: Finance Ministry**

State-owned lenders have sanctioned loans worth ₹29,490 crore under the emergency credit line guarantee scheme, out of which, 50% of the credit has already been disbursed, as of June 11, the finance ministry said.

“As of 11 June 2020, PSBs have sanctioned loans worth ₹29,490.81 crore under the 100% Emergency Credit Line Guarantee Scheme (ECLGS), out of which ₹14,690.84 crore has already been disbursed,” the finance minister Nirmala Sitharaman’s office said in a tweet.

### **ADIP scheme: First Distribution of Assistive aids to Divyangjan**

Government of India organized the first ever ADIP camp. The camp was conducted to distribute free assistive aids to Divyangjans under the ADIP scheme.

The first camp to distribute free assistive aids was organized at Ferozpur district of Punjab. The camp was organized by ALIMCO (Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India) operating under Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

### **Minister Kishan Reddy launches GermiBAN in Hyderabad**

Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, G Kishan Reddy launched GermiBAN at AIC ALEAP We-Hub. The device launched has UV C and other B, C, D components, the patenting technology that kills surface and air microbes at 99.9 per cent, useful for isolation wards, quarantine centres, hospitals for killing viruses like corona.

### **“Ultra Swachh” Booth developed by DRDO to disinfect PPEs**

The Defence Research Development Organization (DRDO) developed a disinfection unit called Ultra Swachh. The unit is used to disinfect articles such as electronic items, Personal Protective Equipment, fabrics, etc.

### **Cabinet approved to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port**

The Union Cabinet chaired by PM Narendra Modi approved to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port. The decision was made by the Board of Trustees of Kolkata Port Trust in its Meeting held on 25 February 2020. The Board also passed a Resolution to rename Kolkata Port as Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port.

### **India first in world to make internet-controlled Robot**

An engineer from Thane has developed an internet-controlled robot. The bot is first of its kind. The robot addresses the needs of the hospitals treating COVID-19 patients.

The robot has been named Coro-bot. It can independently dispense food, beverages, water, medicines. The robot also gives good advises to patients without the aid of nurses, staffs or other care givers.

### **Population of Asiatic Lions in Gir up by almost 29 pc**

The population of majestic Asiatic Lions in Gujarat's Gir Forest is up by almost 29%. The "good news" was announced by Prime Minister Narendra who said the geographically their distribution area was also up by 36%.

### **NHAI becomes first construction sector to go completely digital**

The National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has become of the first construction sector organization to go fully digital. The entire project management workflow of NHAI has been transformed from manual to the online portal based, with the launch of cloud-based and artificial intelligence-powered big data analytics platform Data Lake and Project Management Software.



### State – Related Affairs

#### **Gujarat is the first state to complete the migration of workers to their home state through Shramik Special trains**

According to sources, it is the only state which had run more than 1,000 shramik special trains for sending 15 lakh 18 thousand migrant workers to their home state. According to Additional Chief Secretary of State Labor and Employment department Vipul Mitra, this was the biggest planned migration by any state in Independent India.

#### **Gairsain declared summer capital of Uttarakhand**

Gairsain in Chamoli district was declared as the summer capital of Uttarakhand. A notification in this regard was issued by Chief Secretary Utpal Kumar Singh after Governor Baby Rani Maurya gave her assent to the move.

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#### **World’s Largest Plasma Therapy Trial under Project ‘Platina’ launched by Maharashtra**

The World’s largest Convalescent Plasma Therapy Trial project was launch on 29th June 2020 by the Maharashtra State Government. The name of the project is Platina. The project was virtually launched by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra Uddhav Thackeray. For this trial project, the Indian Council of Medical Research has given the approval to conduct plasma therapy in COVID-19 positive patients admitted in the 21 COVID-19 hospitals of the Maharashtra State Government.

#### **Uttarakhand opens Biodiversity Park**

The State of Uttarakhand has recently opened a biodiversity park in Haldwani as the rich botanical heritage of the state is facing threats from climate change and degrading habitat loss, degrading landscapes and development activities.

#### **“Ghar Ghar Nigrani”: Mobile Application launched by Punjab Government**

The Punjab Government has launched “Ghar Ghar Nigrani” mobile application to undertake house to house surveillance to eliminate COVID-19 pandemic. The mobile application was launched by the Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh. The application is to be used as a tool for early detection and testing of COVID-19 and prevent community spread.

#### **Raja festival of Odisha: A celebration of womanhood and sustainable development**

Odisha, the land of Lord Jagannath, celebrates 13 festivals in 12 months ( a popular proverb among the locals ) meaning Odisha celebrates endless festivals throughout the year. Among all this one important festival is Raja Parba which is celebrated for three days during the mid of June, preferably starts from 14th June and ends in 16th. During this period, the state remains in a state of jubilation and celebration.

### **Maharashtra government announces Maha Parwana plan to attract fresh investments in industries**

In a bid to attract fresh industrial investments in Maharashtra, the state government announced a new plan called ‘Maha Parwana’, which will offer several incentives and offer a single-window clearance system for project execution.

In a cabinet decision, the government has decided that henceforth companies investing in a project costing Rs 50 crore or more would not be burdened with getting clearances from several departments.

### **Delhi Government to set up ‘Plasma Bank’ at ILBS, the First Plasma Bank in India**

To treat COVID-19 patients, on 29th June 2020 Delhi’s Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal was announced that a ‘Plasma Bank’ will be set up at the National Capital in the next two days. The Plasma Bank will be set up at the Institute of Liver and Biliary Sciences (ILBS). At the Delhi Government’s Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan Hospital, 35 people have been administered with Plasma Therapy out of which 34 have survived.

### **Kill Corona’ Campaign in Madhya Pradesh from 1st July 2020**

To control the spread of COVID-19 in the state, the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan has informed that the State Government will launch a campaign called ‘Kill Corona’ from 1st July 2020 under which door-to-door Survey will be conducted.

During the campaign, the highlight will be the number of tests conducted. The campaign will double the COVID-19 testing capacity from 4000 per 10 lakh people to 8000 per 10 lakh people in the state.

### **Uttar Pradesh govt decides to adopt scheme of Flatted Factory Model**

In Uttar Pradesh, the State Government has decided to adopt the scheme of Flatted Factory Model which will ensure easy availability of land for industries, and in turn, generate employment also.

In a high level meeting, it was decided by Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Authority (UPSIDA) that flatted factories that means multi-storeyed buildings in which multiple non-polluting units can operate will be allowed.

### **UP becomes top state in country to provide employment to workers under MGNREGA**

Uttar Pradesh has become the top state in the country to provide employment to the workers under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme MGNREGA. Uttar Pradesh provided employment to more than 57 lakh workers under MGNREGA.

### **Tripura Government to start ‘Play Little, Study Little’ Scheme from 25th June**

The state government of Tripura has decided to start a scheme for school students from 25th June 2020. The scheme is named ‘Ektu Khelo, Ektu Padho’ –meaning ‘Play Little, Study

Little'. The scheme will be implemented via SMS or WhatsApp. For students, those who have access to smartphones of their parents will be able to access the scheme through WhatsApp. For students having feature phones, they will be able to access through SMS.

### **Jharkhand govt to launch MGNREGA like scheme for urban poor**

The Urban Development and Housing Department on June 21 announced that the Jharkhand government is all set to launch an employment guarantee scheme for the urban unskilled workers. The scheme will be on similar lines of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA).

### **Chhattisgarh govt launches 'Spandan Campaign' to check suicide and fratricide**

The Chhattisgarh government launched the Spandan Campaign to contain incidents of suicide and fratricide involving police personnel, and instructions were issued to senior officers to strictly adhere to guidelines in this regard.

### **Jagananna Chedodu Scheme launched**

The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Jagan Mohan Reddy recently launched "Jagananna Chedodu" scheme. The scheme is to provide financial assistance to barbers, tailors and washer men.

The Jagananna Chedodu scheme is to provide Rs 10,000 per person. It is to benefit 2.47 lakhs of barbers, washer men and tailors. The State Government has transferred Rs 247 crores to the bank accounts so far under the scheme.

### **SAUNI Scheme: Third Phase launched**

The third phase of Saurashtra Narmada Avtaran Irrigation (SAUNI) scheme was launched by the Gujarat Chief Minister Vijay Rupani. The scheme is to fill 115 dams with Narmada water by August 15, 2020 and March, 2021.

### **UP govt successfully installs Tru NAAT machines in all 75 districts**

In Uttar Pradesh, the State Government has successfully installed Tru NAAT machines in all 75 districts. The state has also increased its testing capacity and tested 15,000 plus samples. Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has set the target to achieve 20 thousand COVID testing per day in this month.

### **Odisha Becomes First State to Get ISO Certification for Tribal Hostels**

Odisha has become the first state in the country to receive ISO certification for hostels meant for tribal students, an official said.

The ST&SC Welfare Department had earlier launched the 'Mission Suvidya' project to provide all the tribal hostels of the state uniform standards of infrastructure, amenities and human resources, he said.

### **Rajasthan Government to launch ‘Indira Rasoi Yojna’**

To provide pure and nutritious food to the economically weaker sections of the society, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Ashok Gehlot on 22nd June 2020 announced ‘Indira Rasoi Yojna (Indira Kitchen Scheme).

Under the scheme, food will be available at a concessional rate twice a day to make sure no one sleeps hungry in state. For the successful implementation of the scheme, the state government will rope in local Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) in every district of the state.

### **Tripura launched Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar scheme**

Tripura State government announced the Mukhyamantri Matru Pushti Uphaar scheme. The scheme aims to provide nutrition kits to pregnant and lactating women. The scheme is expected to benefit 40,000 women from the state. The initiative was launched as many pregnant women and infants in the state suffer from malnutrition.

### **Rajasthan Government launches “Raj Kaushal Portal”**

“Raj Kaushal Portal” and “Online Shramik Employment Exchange” has been launched by the Rajasthan Government. The portal has been developed by the department of Information and Technology (IT) and Rajasthan Skill & Livelihoods Development Corporation (RSLDC). The “Raj Kaushal Portal” aims to improve availability of opportunities for the migrated workers and hence acts as a bridge between industry and labourers.

### **Mizoram celebrates 34th anniversary of Mizo peace accord**

In Mizoram, the 34th anniversary of Mizo peace accord is being celebrated through simple functions maintaining social distancing and guidelines of lockdown of Covid-19.

On the occasion, Chief Minister Zoramthanga said that the Mizo peace accord has been the most successful accord ever signed in the country and the world as well. He said Mizoram has become the most peaceful state and a beacon of hope for the world and proved peace can be attained and sustained.

### **India’s ‘first’ lichen park in Uttarakhand to conserve Jurassic era plant**

Uttarakhand Forest Department has developed India’s ‘first’ lichen park in Munsiyari in Pithoragarh district of the state. The state has over 600 species of lichens of which around 150 are found in Munsiyari.

### International Affairs

#### **World Economic Forum to hold Twin Summit**

The World Economic Forum announced that it is to host its next summit in Davos under the theme “The Great Reset”. The forum has named the summit as “A Unique Twin Summit”. The 51st annual summit of the World Economic Forum is to bring together global leaders, civil society and multi stake holders from 400 cities.

#### **Mukesh Ambani joins club of world’s top 10 richest people**

Mukesh Ambani with a recent soar in net worth has jumped into the exclusive club of the world’s top 10 richest people, as per Forbes Real-Time Billionaire list.

The Reliance Industries Chairman and Managing Director with a net worth of USD 64.5 billion is currently ranked 9th on the list of World’s top billionaires. His net worth has increased by almost 12 times from USD 5.3 billion to USD 64.6 billion within just two months.

#### **China has decided to join the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**

The people’s Republic of China will join the multilateral Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), this was decided during a three-day meeting from 18th June to 20th June of the top lawmaking committee in China- Legislative Affairs Committee. China was one of the 23 countries back in 2013 when it abstained from the vote to adopt the treaty at the United Nations.

#### **Approx 2.4 Million Children Below the Age of 5 are facing Hunger and Malnutrition in Yemen**

The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) on 26th June 2020 has stated that amid the COVID-19 global pandemic, around 2.4 million (24 lakh) children who are below the age of 5 are facing hunger and malnutrition in Yemen. The global pandemic has further added to a shortage of humanitarian aid in the war-torn nation that is has been struggling with a widespread shortage of essential services, medicines, etc since the beginning of the civil war back in 2015.

#### **36th ASEAN Summit chaired by Vietnam**

The 36th Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Summit was held via video conference on the theme “Cohesive and Responsive ASEAN”. The summit was chaired by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc as Vietnam is ASEAN’s chair in 2020. The focus of the meet was on COVID-19 response, post-pandemic recovery and further cooperation with partners.

#### **India pledges to donate USD 15 million to International Vaccine Alliance GAVI**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledged to donate USD 15 million to the Global Alliance for Vaccines and Immunisation (GAVI). He made the announcement during the Global Vaccine Summit hosted by the United Kingdom (UK) on June 4, 2020.

The virtual summit was opened by UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson who urged the nations around the world to pledge for vaccination funding in order to save millions of lives as well as to protect the world from future outbreaks

### **G20 countries pledge 21 billion USD to fight COVID-19**

The G20 countries pledged over 21 billion USD to fight against COVID-19. The countries have so far injected 5 trillion USD in March 2020 to help fight global economic crisis. The 21 billion USD commitment was made only by the invited members.

### **Ramon Magsaysay awards 2020 cancelled due to COVID-19 virus**

Ramon Magsaysay awards, known as Asia's version of the Nobel Prize, have been cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Manila-based foundation issued a statement on June 9, 2020 saying that it has no choice but to cancel the 2020 awards with COVID-19 almost immobilizing the world.

### **SIPRI Yearbook: Nuclear Weapons of India and China increases**

The Swedish think-tank launched the SIPRI Yearbook, 2020. According to the yearbook, India and China have increased their nuclear arsenal as compared to 2019. The report says that India is expanding its nuclear weapon stock pile and nuclear infrastructure.

### **India joins Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence**

India joined the Global Partnership of Artificial Intelligence as a founding member. The other leading member countries that joined along with India are UK, USA, European Union, Australia, France, Canada, Germany, Mexico, Italy, Republic of Korea, Singapore, New Zealand, etc.

The G20 or GPAI-Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence is a multi-stake holder initiative that will guide development of Artificial Intelligence.

### **India elected as non-permanent member of UNSC**

India was elected as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for a two-year term after winning 184 votes in the 193-member General Assembly. Along with India, Ireland, Mexico and Norway also won the Security Council elections held last night.

India was a candidate for a non-permanent seat from the Asia-Pacific category for the 2021-22 term. Its victory was certain as it was the sole candidate vying for the lone seat from the grouping.

### **Nepal's President approves controversial bill to revise national map including three Indian territories**

Nepal's President Bidhya Devi Bhandari on June 18, 2020 approved the Constitution Amendment Bill that seeks to update the nation's political map by including areas claimed by

India. The bill was passed earlier in the day by Nepal's upper house of the Parliament, National Assembly with unanimous support. All 57 members of the house voted in favour of the bill.

### **India to host AFC 2022 Asian Womens Cup**

India is to host the 2022 Women's Asian Cup. The hosting rights have been awarded to India by the Asian Football Confederation. This is the second time India will be hosting the event. India hosted the event for the first time in 1979. The information was passed by the All India Football Federation.

### **Which countries have declared themselves to be free of coronavirus?**

New Zealand became the latest country to declare itself to be free of the coronavirus, whereas Tanzania declared itself free of the disease. Fiji, Montenegro, Seychelles and St Kitts and Nevis have also said that they are left with no active coronavirus cases. Papua New Guinea, Holy See and Eritrea have also declared themselves coronavirus-free.

### **First American Woman to Walk in Space Reaches Deepest Spot in the Ocean**

The first American woman to walk in space has become the first woman to reach the deepest known spot in the ocean.

Kathy Sullivan, 68, an astronaut and oceanographer, emerged from her 35,810-foot dive to the Challenger Deep, according to EYOS Expeditions, a company coordinating the logistics of the mission.

### **Prakash Javadekar inaugurates virtual India Pavilion at Cannes Films Market**

Information and Broadcasting Minister Prakash Javadekar virtually inaugurated the India Pavilion at the Cannes Film Market.

The film market includes virtual pavilions for institutions such as film funds and filming boards from across the globe as well as virtual booths for sales companies to screen their projects-in-work and connect with buyers.

### **Australia, New Zealand to co-host 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup**

Australia and New Zealand will host the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, football's global governing body FIFA announced.

FIFA said that the joint bid submitted by Football Federation Australia and New Zealand Football received 22 of the 35 valid votes cast by the FIFA Council members in the first ballot, with the Colombian Football Association having obtained 13 votes.

### **TPPA of USD 2.4 Billion Signed by Pakistan with China for Hydro Power Project in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir**

On 25th June 2020, a Tripartite Power Purchase Agreement (TPPA) was signed for the construction of the 1124 MW Kohala Hydro Power Project. The agreement was signed in

between the Government of Pakistan, Chinese Company- China Three Gorges Corporation (State-owned company of Chinese Government), and Government of Azad Kashmir (Part of Pakistan occupied Kashmir).

### **China passes Hong Kong National Security Law**

The National People's Congress Standing Committee (NPCSC) has unanimously passed the National Security Law for Hong Kong on 30th June 2020. The three-day meeting of the Standing Committee began on 28th June, on the first day itself the controversial Bill was fast-tracked for approval, on the last day of the meet all 162 members of the Standing Committee approved the Bill.

### **India bans 59 Chinese apps including TikTok, Helo, WeChat**

The government banned 59 Chinese mobile applications, including top social media platforms such as TikTok, Helo and WeChat, to counter the threat posed by these applications to the country's "sovereignty and security," it said in a press release late. ShareIT, UC browser and shopping app Clubfactory are among the other prominent apps that have been blocked amid rising tensions between India and China following clashes at the border two weeks ago.



### Foreign Relation

#### **India to hold first ever virtual bilateral summit with Australia**

PM Modi will hold a virtual bilateral summit with the Australian PM Scott Morrison. This is the first ever virtual bilateral summit to be held by India. The leaders are to discuss a broad framework on the relation of India and Australia.

The leaders will also sign several agreements. The major agreement is the one to be signed on mutual sharing of military logistics facilities. The agreement will help increase the bandwidth of operation of both the Australian and Indian forces in the Indo Pacific region.

#### **India, Denmark signs MoU for cooperation in power sector**

Denmark and India on June 7, 2020, signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that aims at developing a deep, strong, and long-term cooperation in the power sector. The memorandum was signed between Denmark's Ministry of Energy, Utilities and Climate, and India's Power Ministry.

#### **India-ASEAN Youth Dialogue**

The third India-ASEAN Youth Dialogue as held between June 8, 2020 and June 10, 2020. The dialogue was held in virtual mode. ASEAN has been India's utmost priority under its Act East Policy. There are 10 countries in ASEAN grouping.

The organization focuses on military, education, socio-cultural integration, security. It was created in 1967 by 5 countries namely Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Philippines and Thailand.

#### **India-Nepal sign MoU**

India and Nepal signed a Memorandum of Understanding to improve infrastructure of the Pashupatinath temple complex. The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Federal Affairs ministry of Nepal and Indian Embassy. Under the agreement, India has pledged to extend financial assistance of Rs 2.33 crores.

#### **France commits 200 million Euros for India's Covid response**

France and India signed an agreement with Paris committing 200 million euros to support Delhi's Covid response.

The credit financing agreement was signed by Dr C.S. Mohapatra, Additional Secretary – DEA, and Bruno Bosle, Director – AFD (French Development Agency) in India in the virtual presence of Emmanuel Lenain, Ambassador of France to India.

#### **India becomes 12th largest holder of US govt securities**

India became the 12th largest holder of US government securities at the end of April, with holding worth \$157.4 billion, according to official data.

After significantly reducing the exposure in March to \$156.5 billion, Indian marginally hiked the holding by \$0.9 billion to \$157.4 billion the next month, the data from the US Treasury Department showed.

### **India pledges USD 10 million to UNRWA over next two years**

India has announced contributing 10 million US dollar to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) over the coming two years.

Addressing an Extraordinary Virtual Ministerial Pledging Conference for UNRWA, Minister of State for External Affairs V Muraleedharan said that capacity enhancement through training and building durable institutions is a major plank of our developmental assistance to Palestine.

### **Concession Agreement Signed between India & Bhutan for Joint Venture Hydroelectric Project**

A concession agreement was signed between the Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited and the Royal Government of Bhutan. The Concession Agreement provides the right to Kholongchhu Hydro Energy Limited to operate the Kholongchhu Hydroelectric Project within the jurisdictions of the Bhutanese Government.

The Concession Agreement signing was conducted at Bhutan's capital city Thimphu. The Agreement signing was attended virtually by the Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. S. Jaishankar.

### **India-Australia sign landmark Defence Agreements**

Indian PM Modi and the Australian PM Scott Morrison held India's first virtual bilateral summit. The leaders signed several agreements during their meet and also discussed about the COVID-19 measures being implemented in their respective countries.

### **Australia shows strong support for India's NSG membership**

Australia on June 4 showed its strong support for India's membership to Nuclear Supplier Groups (NSG). It also restated its backing for India's candidacy for a permanent seat in a reformed United Nations Security Council (UNSC).

The support from Australia was mentioned in the joint statement which was released after an online summit between Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and his Australian counterpart Scott Morrison.

### **India Ideas Summit 2020 on 21st & 22nd July**

The 45th annual meeting of the United States India Business Council (USIBC) will be marked with the 2020 India Ideas Summit. This year's summit will be held virtually on 21st and 22nd July.

Every year the Summit is being organized by the USIBC. The summit is conducted to showcase the importance of the positive outcome of the India-United States economic partnership and the overall bilateral relationship between the two nations.

### **Atal Innovation Mission partners with Coal India Ltd to boost its Innovation & Entrepreneurship initiatives**

Coal India Limited (CIL) has agreed to partner with Atal Innovation Mission (AIM), NITI Aayog to support proactively the flagship mission's innovation and entrepreneurship initiatives across the country. A Statement of Intent (SoI) of a strategic partnership between AIM and Coal India Limited was signed and exchanged in a virtual e-summit for the same June 19.

### Ranks & Indices

#### **Virat Kohli only Indian again in Forbes' list of highest-paid athletes**

Cricket superstar Virat Kohli remains the only Indian in the Forbes' list of world's highest-paid athletes with total earnings of USD 26 million, jumping to the 66th spot from 100 in the 2020 standings. Kohli's earnings from endorsement stand at USD 24 million and USD 2 million from salary/winnings. The 31-year-old is also the only cricketer in the top-100 list.

With earnings of USD 25 million, Kohli was ranked 100th in 2019 and 83rd in 2018 with USD 24 million. Tennis legend Roger Federer has topped the list for the first time with earnings of USD 106.3 million, rising from fifth place last year.

#### **India drops six places in the ranking for world's best startup ecosystems**

India is home to the third largest startup ecosystem, but in a latest ranking of global startup ecosystems by Startupblin, India has dropped 6 places to the 23rd spot. StartupBlink is a global comprehensive startup ecosystem map and research centre.

India's Silicon Valley Bengaluru dropped three places to have the 14th rank in the top cities with best startup ecosystems ranking, while the national capital Delhi climbed three spots to the 15th rank. Meanwhile, Mumbai held the 22nd rank. Hyderabad lost 21 spots to be ranked 96th.

#### **Bengaluru in world's top 30 startup ecosystem list**

Indian's startup capital Bengaluru has been ranked in the world's top 30 startup ecosystems. Topped by the Silicon Valley in California, Bengaluru is at the 26th spot and the only India city to feature in the list by 'The Global Startup Ecosystem Report 2020' by Startup Genome.

#### **World Investment Report released by UNCTAD**

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development released its World Investment Report, 2020. According to the report, India is the 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019.

#### **India ranked 43rd on IMD's World Competitiveness Index; Singapore on top**

India continues to remain ranked 43rd on an annual World Competitiveness Index compiled by Institute for Management Development (IMD) with some traditional weaknesses like poor infrastructure and insufficient education investment keeping its ranking low, the international business school said. Singapore has retained its top position on the 63-nation list.

#### **8 Indian universities feature in THE Asia Rankings top 100 list — and it's not just IITs**

Indian engineers are known and recognized around the world. And its institutions being placed high in the global ranking is a validation to that. According to the Times Higher Education (THE) Asia Rankings, eight Indian institutions have been ranked in the top 100 list this year — including six Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

### **Ookla certifies ACT Fibernet as India's most consistent wired broadband**

ACT Fibernet is verified as India's most consistent wired broadband, according to Ookla® analysis of Speedtest Intelligence® data Q1 2020. ACT Fibernet offers seamless work from home and helps you enjoy 4k streaming on its network. The company aims to offer you the fastest, most consistent and unparalleled internet experience through its latest technology of fiber broadband.

### **Environment Performance Index: India ranks 168**

The Yale University recently released the biennial Environment Performance Index. India scored 168th rank out of 180 countries. In 2018, India scored 27.6 out of 100 and secured 177th rank.

According to the report, India needs to double its sustainability efforts. Also, India needs to focus widely on sustainability issues with utmost priority towards air and water quality, climate change and biodiversity.

### **Madhya Pradesh Tops Wheat Procurement With Over 1.27 Crore Tonnes**

Madhya Pradesh has emerged the top state in the country in wheat procurement on support price by purchasing more than one crore metric tonnes from farmers.

A total of 1,27,67,628 metric tonnes of wheat was procured by Madhya Pradesh, which accounts for 33 per cent of all wheat procured in the country. Punjab stands at the second position in wheat procurement in the country.

### **Gujarat, Goa, Chandigarh lead India's food safety index**

Gujarat has topped among larger States in terms of food safety index, while Chandigarh tops among UTs. Goa leads smaller States so far as food safety is concerned, as per the details shared by FSSAI.

Gujarat is followed by Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, said the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI), which released the results of the second 'State Food Safety Index' to celebrate the World Food Safety Day during a webinar.

### **Mumbai: 60th most Expensive in the world**

According to the Mercer's 2020 Cost of Living Survey, Mumbai is the 60th most expensive city in the world. Also, it is the 19th most expensive in Asia. The survey measured its ranking including 209 cities. The measures used to rank the cities were housing, food, transportation, clothing, entertainment and household goods.

### **India ranks 56th among 200 countries on Covid-19 safety assessment**

India has been ranked 56th out of 200 countries in a comprehensive report on safety and risk assessment of nations tackling Covid-19. According to the 250-page-long report, Switzerland

is the safest country in the world for Covid-19, followed by Germany and Israel. South Sudan is the most dangerous.

### **Nature Index**

The Nature Research, a division of the popular Springer Nature recently released Nature Index. India secured 12th rank in the index. The countries that secured top 5 places in the index includes USA, China, Germany, UK and Japan. Also, three institutions found their places among top 30 Indian Institutions according to Nature Index 2020 ratings. They are

- Indian Association for Cultivation of Science (IACS),
- Kolkata at the 7th position Jawaharlal Nehru Centre for Advanced Scientific Research (JNCASR) at 14th position
- N Bose National Centre for Basic Sciences, Kolkata at 30th

### **FIFA Ranking: India retains 108th rank**

The FIFA ranking was released. Indian team retained its 108th position as the international football for the year 2020 has been suspended since March. Belgium remained at the top spot and was ahead of France and Brazil.

England and Uruguay continued to remain at fourth and fifth position. Croatia and Portugal were at sixth and seventh position respectively. They were followed by Spain, Argentina and Colombia.

### **Leading research institutions in the Nature Index 2020 Annual Tables**

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) in Beijing has topped the Nature Index 2020 Annual Tables list as the most prolific producer of research published in the 82 selected journals tracked by the Index (see Graphic).

CAS's Share of 1805.22 in 2019 was almost twice that of Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, which came in second. Research institutions from China, the United States, France, Germany and the United Kingdom feature among the ten most prolific institutions in the Index.

### **NIRF Ranking 2020 released Latest Updates: IIT Madras, IISc Bangalore, IIT Delhi top 3 institutes, check full list here**

Union Human Resource Development minister Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank has released the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) Ranking 2020. HRD minister was live with Minister of State Sanjay Dhotre and chairman of AICTE Anil Saharsrabudhe and UGC chairman DP Singh announced.

Every year, MHRD ranks the universities and institutions of India based on the pre-determined parameters. In the year 2019, IIT Madras had topped the list of higher education institutions followed by IISc Bengaluru and IIT Delhi. Here we bring to you full details about NIRF Rankings.

### **QS World Ranking 2021: Three Indian universities in top 200**

Three Indian institutes have made it to the top 200 of the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University rankings which is released. The three institutes are IIT Bombay, IISc Bangalore, and IIT Delhi. However, not a single Indian institute got a position in top 100 university of QS World University ranking.

### **India 9th largest recipient of FDI in 2019, will continue to attract investments: UN**

India received 51 billion US dollar in foreign investment in 2019. UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) in its report said, it was the world's ninth largest recipient of Foreign Direct Investments (FDI). The report said, India's large market will continue to attract market-seeking investments to the country.

### **India remains 3rd largest economy in purchasing power parity; still way behind China, US**

India has retained its position as the third-largest economy in the world in terms of purchasing power parity (PPP), even as it is way behind the US and China.

India accounts for 6.7 per cent, or \$8,051 billion, out of the world's total of \$119,547 billion of global Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in terms of PPP, a measure of relative consumer prices across countries, as against 16.4 per cent in case of China and 16.3 per cent for the United States, World Bank data for reference year 2017 show.

### **India slips down at 77th place in accounting money in Swiss banks**

Swiss National Bank (SNB) has released 'Annual banking statistics, 2019'. According to the latest SNB data, India has moved down three places to 77th rank in terms of money parked by its citizens. However, many neighbouring countries are below India in the list. Among them, Pakistan is ranked 99th, Bangladesh 85th, Nepal 118th, Sri Lanka 148th, Myanmar 186th and Bhutan 196th.

### **Max Life at Rank 24 is the only life insurance company to be amongst India's top 100 great places to work**

Max Life Insurance Company Ltd, announced that it has been ranked 24th amongst India's Top 100 Great Places to Work. The annual survey is the benchmark when it comes to ranking India's best employers with participation from over 1000 companies. Of this, 83 companies were from the BFSI sector this year by Great Place to Work Institute ("GPTW") in its 2020 study.

(CESU). The acquisition paves the way for taking over the power **Business**

### **Tata Power completes 51% stake buy in Odisha's TPCODL**

Tata Power said it has completed the acquisition of 51 per cent stake in TP Central Odisha Distribution Ltd (TPCODL) for Rs 178.5 crore. TPCODL carries out the business of Central Electricity Supply Utility of Odisha

### **Facebook signs global licensing deal with music label Saregama**

Social media giant Facebook said it has signed a global licensing deal with India's oldest music label Saregama. The partnership with Facebook comes soon after Swedish audio streaming service Spotify signed a licensing partnership with Saregama for Indian users.

### **Wipro partners with CloudKnox for Cloud security solutions**

In partnership with CloudKnox Security, IT major Wipro has announced new solutions to enable enterprises to proactively protect and manage their hybrid and multi-Cloud infrastructure by continuously detecting and remediating over-permissioned identities.

As part of the partnership, Wipro will offer an Access Governance for Hybrid Cloud "as-a-service" offering, powered by CloudKnox.

### **Gail, Petronet join India's first natural gas online trading platform**

GAIL (India) Ltd. And Petronet LNG Ltd. joined India's first natural gas online exchange on June 15, 2020. The announcement regarding the exchange was made by the Director of Indian Gas Exchange, Rajesh Kumar Mediratta. Both GAIL and Petronet are terminal owners of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG).

As per Rajesh Kumar Mediratta, with others such as Torrent Power, Manikaran Power and Adani Gas on board, the trading platform will help in reviving the stranded gas-fuelled power projects and will reduce subsidy and fertilizer prices.

### **Tech Mahindra signs UN Global Compact Initiative to reduce emissions**

Tech Mahindra, a provider of digital transformation, consulting and business reengineering services signed a joint declaration with UN Global Compact urging governments to align their COVID-19 recovery efforts with the latest climate science.

Tech Mahindra reaffirms its commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions while calling on governments to "prioritize a faster and fairer transition from a grey to a green economy."

### **Abu Dhabi based firm invests over Rs 5000 crore in Jio**

After Facebook, Silver Lake, KKR and others, Reliance Jio has found a seventh partner to invest in the company. Mukesh Ambani's telecom giant will sell 1.2% stake to Abu Dhabi Investment Authority for a huge amount of Rs 5,683 crore.



With this, the total investment has risen up to 97,885 crores through various firms. The highest among them is Facebook. Jio plans to clear all its loans by the end of this financial year and these string of investments are a step in that direction.

### **Wipro and IBM collaborate to assist customers embark on a secure hybrid cloud journey**

Wipro announced a collaboration with IBM to assist Wipro customers embark on a seamless and secure hybrid cloud journey. Through this alliance, Wipro will develop hybrid cloud offerings to help businesses migrate, manage and transform mission-critical workloads and applications, with security across public or private cloud and on-premises IT environments.

### **Adani Green Energy wins world's largest solar bid worth \$6 billion**

Adani Green Energy Ltd has bagged the world's largest solar bid entailing building a photovoltaic (PV) power plant of 8,000 MW and setting up a domestic solar panel manufacturing capacity of 2,000 MW, envisaging a total investment of roughly \$6 billion.

### **Alibaba Cloud to invest USD 283 mn to accelerate global partner ecosystem**

Alibaba Cloud, the data intelligence backbone of Alibaba Group, said it will invest RMB 2 billion (USD 283 million or about Rs 2,144 crore) during this fiscal year to empower global partners and accelerate joint innovations in the post-pandemic era.

The investment aims to help its partners in accelerating their digitalisation capabilities and create joint products and solutions to benefit even more customers across all sectors, a statement said.

### **HUL completes acquisition of female hygiene brand VWash from Glenmark**

Leading FMCG player Hindustan Unilever (HUL) said it has completed the acquisition of VWash from pharma major Glenmark Pharmaceuticals. The company, however, did not disclose the value of the transaction.

The acquisition was announced in March and was subject to certain closing conditions, which have now been fulfilled, the FMCG firm said in a filing to BSE.

### **Swiggy announces Jumpstart Package**

Food-hailing giant Swiggy announced a "Jumpstart package" for all its restaurant-partners to resume operations smoothly. It is no secret the food delivery business has been in shreds ever since the lockdown was imposed to contain the spread of coronavirus.

To help the restaurants resume their operations, Swiggy has introduced the package that would provide important elements such as Safety kits required for implementing hygiene protocols, and business booster programs and drive orders volumes subsidized rates. So far over 40,000 restaurant partners have already availed this package.

### **RIL becomes first Indian Company to be valued at USD 150 Billion**

Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) on 19th June 2020 was valued at USD 150 billion following a rise in the share market, this also made RIL the first-ever Indian company to achieve a market value of above Rs 11 lakh crore.

The positive growth in the shares of the company was registered after it announced that the company has become net debt-free well ahead of its target of March 2021.

### **Biocon ties up with DKSH to distribute 7 products in Singapore, Thailand**

Bio-technology major Biocon said it has signed an agreement with market expansion services provider DKSH for distribution of seven generic products in Singapore and Thailand. Biocon Pharma Ltd, a subsidiary of the bio-tech firm, and DKSH Business Unit Healthcare, have inked an agreement in this regard, Biocon Ltd said in a statement.

### Defence News

#### **INS Jalashwa reaches Tamil Nadu with over 700 Indians onboard from Sri Lanka**

About 700 Indian labourers have landed at the Thuthukudi Chidambaranar port in Tamil Nadu. They arrived by the Indian Naval Ship INS Jalashwa under the Operation Samudra Sethu for bringing labourers from other countries by ships.

#### **DRDO develops ‘Ultra Swachh’ for disinfection of PPEs, electronic items, fabrics**

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a disinfection unit called ‘Ultra Swachh’ to disinfect a wide range of materials, including Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs), electronics items, fabrics, etc.

#### **DRDO develops SUMERU PACS**

The Defence Research Development Organization has developed the SUMERU PACS, that helps to reduce sweating of Personal Protective Equipment wearers. The DRDO scientists found that the PPE wearers felt very uncomfortable after wearing them for more than 30 minutes. They start sweating and this worsen the situation.

#### **‘Kesari’ reaches Port Victoria in Seychelles to hand over COVID related essential medicines under ‘Mission Sagar’**

As part of Mission Sagar, Indian Naval Ship Kesari reached Port Victoria in Seychelles for handing over COVID related essential medicines. Under Mission Sagar, Indian government is providing assistance to friendly foreign countries in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic.

#### **ANANYA: Disinfectant Spray developed by Defence Institute**

The Pune based Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT) has developed Nano-Technology based disinfectant spray to fight against COVID-19. The spray has been named ANANYA.

#### **Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle Complex opens in Vishakhapatnam**

The Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV) Complex has been inaugurated at Vishakhapatnam by Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain, Flag Officer Commanding in Chief of Eastern Naval Command (ENC) on June 10, 2020.

The complex has been designed to accommodate the newly inducted Submarine Rescue System with state of the art facilities to store the DSRV assets in a Rescue-Ready state.

#### **China’s unmanned submersible ‘Haidou-1’ reaches world’s deepest ocean point**

China’s unmanned submersible ‘Haidou-1’ has dived to a depth of 10, 907 meters at the world’s deepest ocean point. Haidou-1 sets a new record for the country during which high-definition images of the geological environment and samples from the deep sea were collected.

The unmanned submersible set the record by submerging under the Pacific Ocean surface of the Mariana Trench which is the deepest area in the world.

### **DRDO develops ‘GermiKlean’ to sanitise uniforms of security forces**

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed a sanitizing chamber named ‘GermiKlean’ to sanitise uniforms of security forces. The sanitizing chamber has been set up at Parliament Street Police Station.

DRDO’s move came after Delhi Police gave their requirement for sanitizing their uniforms, canes, cane shields, helmets, etc.

### **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh to attend Russian Victory Day Parade**

Union Defence Minister Rajnath Singh is scheduled to make a three-day visit to Russia on May 22, 2020 to attend the Russian Victory Day Parade. This year’s victory parade will mark the 75th anniversary of Nazi Germany’s surrender to Soviet Union during the Second World War.

### **Indigenously Developed Torpedo Decoy System Inducted by Indian Navy**

The Indian Navy has inducted an Indigenously developed Maareech capable Advanced Torpedo Decoy System on 26th June 2020. The induction has provided a huge boost to the Indian Navy’s Anti-Submarine Warfare Capabilities.

What is Torpedo Defence System? A Torpedo is a self-propelled underwater missile that can be launched from a surface vessel, submarine, and airplane. During a Torpedo attack, the Torpedo Defence System helps in detecting a torpedo and further applying countermeasures that are required for the protection of the naval platform.

### Science & Technology

#### **SpaceX: First Private Space Company to send NASA astronauts to space**

The SpaceX has become the first private rocket company to send astronauts to space. The company sent Doug Hurley and Bob Behnken to space initiating a new business model for NASA.

#### **Indigenously Developed ‘COVAXIN’ gets DGCI approval for Human Clinical Trials**

The Drug Controller General of India (DGCI) has given approval for Phase I and Phase II human clinical trials for COVID-19 vaccine ‘COVAXIN’.

In association with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and the National Institute of Virology (NIV), COVAXIN is developed by Hyderabad based vaccine & bio-therapeutics manufacturer-Bharat Biotech. At NIV Pune, the strain of SARS-CoV-2 was isolated before being transferred to Bharat Biotech.

#### **Astronomers unveil Solar Corona’s magnetic field**

The researchers at the University of Hawaii Institute of Technology (IFA) have been studying the solar corona. It is an outermost atmosphere of the sun that expands into interplanetary space.

A new study has been published in Astrophysical Journal on June 3 by IFA graduate student Benjamin Boe that used total solar eclipse observations to measure the shape of the coronal magnetic field along with a higher spatial resolution and over a large area than never before.

#### **CeNS: Low cost Catalyst for Hydrogen Generation**

The scientists and researchers at the Centre for Nano and Soft Matter Sciences operating under Department of Science and Technology have invented a low cost effective way to generate hydrogen from water using Molybdenum dioxide.

#### **BLR becomes India’s 1st airport to install AWMS technology on runway**

The Bengaluru International Airport Ltd (BIAL), which operated the Kempegowda International Airport becomes the 1st airport in India, who installed an indigenously-developed Aviation Weather Monitoring System at its new runway on both ends. This new AWMS technology developed by Bengaluru-based CSIR-National Aerospace Laboratories (NAL).

#### **Glenmark launches Covid-19 drug at Rs 103 per tablet**

Drug firm Glenmark Pharmaceuticals said it has launched antiviral drug Favipiravir, under the brand name FabiFlu, for the treatment of patients with mild to moderate Covid-19 at a price of about Rs 103 per tablet.

The drug will be available as a 200 mg tablet at a maximum retail price (MRP) of Rs 3,500 for a strip of 34 tablets, Glenmark Pharmaceuticals said.

### **India's First Oral Vaccine for Moderate COVID-19 Cases gets Approval**

For the treatment of mild to moderate COVID-19 positive patients across the country, on 19th June 2020, for manufacturing and marketing of oral antiviral drug 'Favipiravir (Fabiflu)' was approved by the National Regulatory Authority for Indian pharmaceuticals -Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) to Mumbai based Glenmark Pharmaceuticals.

### **China launched last BeiDou Satellite System**

China launched the satellite of the BeiDou Navigation Satellite System 3 (BDS-3) from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province on 23 June 2020.

#### **About BeiDou –**

- BDS-3 Satellite was carried by a Long March-3B carrier rocket.
- It is the 30th BDS-3 satellite and also the 55th of the whole BeiDou satellite family.
- BDS-3 will offer its users services including high-precision positioning and short message communication. It will bring new highlights to global navigation satellite systems.

### **NASA's headquarter building named after 'Mary W.Jackson'**

NASA has named its headquarter building at Washington D.C after its first African American Female Engineer Mary W.Jackson. The announcement was made on 24th June 2020 by the Administrator of NASA. The story of success of Mary W.Jackson was shown in the 2016 biographical drama Hidden Figures.

#### **Mary W.Jackson**

Mary W. Jackson started her professional career as a research mathematician at the Langley Research Centre of NASA. Later she was promoted to become the first African American female engineer at NASA.

### **Russia announces to take first tourist on space walk in 2023 yr**

Russia's Energia space corporation has announced that it is to take the first tourist on a spacewalk in 2023, under the terms of a new contract with a US partner. Energia has signed a contract with Space Adventures. Under this, two space tourists to the International Space Station (ISS).

### Sports

Name	Tournament Name	Extra Information
Liverpool	English Premier League title	Following Manchester City's 2-1 defeat to Chelsea on 25th June 2020, Liverpool clinched the 2019-20 English Premier League season with 7 games still left in the season.

### Obituary

Name	Associated field
Bobby Joe Morrow	Olympic gold medallist - Sprinter
Wajid Khan	Bollywood Music composer
P Namgyal	Ladakh's Congress veteran
Basu Chatterjee	Veteran filmmaker
Pritam Singh	Acclaimed management guru
Gulzar Dehlvi	Veteran Urdu poet
Tony Dunne	Manchester United's European Cup winner
Vasant Raiji	Former cricketer and historian
A.L. Raghavan	Playback singer
Geetha Nagabhushan	Kannada novelist

**Important Days**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Theme</b>
World Milk Day	June 01	20th Anniversary of world milk day
Global Day of Parents	June 01	Appreciate all the parents throughout the world
International Sex Workers Day	June 02	
World Bicycle Day	June 03	
International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression	June 04	
World Environment Day	June 05	Celebrate Biodiversity
Russian Language Day	June 06	
World Food Safety Day	June 07	Food Safety, Everyone's Business
World Oceans Day	June 08	Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean
World Accreditation Day	June 09	Accreditation: Improving Food Safety
World Day Against Child Labour	June 12	COVID-19 Protect children from child labour, now more than ever
International Albinism Awareness Day	June 13	Made to Shine
World Blood Donor Day	June 14	Safe Blood Saves Lives
World Elder Abuse Awareness Day	June 15	Lifting up Voices
International Day of Family Remittances	June 16	Remittances are a lifeline
World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought	June 17	Food, Feed Fibre
International Picnic Day	June 18	
International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict	June 19	
World Refugee Day	June 20	Every Action Counts
International Yoga Day	June 21	Yoga for Health – Yoga at Home
International Day of the Celebration of the Solstice	June 21	
World Rainforest Day	June 22	
International Olympic Day	June 23	
United Nations Public Service Day	June 23	
International Widows Day	June 23	
International Day in Support of Victims of Torture	June 26	
International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking	June 26	Better Knowledge for Better Care
Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Day	June 27	



## CURRENT AFFAIRS – JUNE 2020

National Statistics Day	June 29	Good Health & Well Being & Gender Equality
International Day of Parliamentarism	June 30	
International Asteroid Day	June 30	